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Letter dated 11 May 2009 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a letter dated 5 May 2009 addressed to you from Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, regarding the outcome of the second Summit of Arab and South American Countries held in Doha on 31 March 2009 (see annex). In addition, please find attached a copy of the Doha Declaration issued by the Summit (see enclosure).

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its attachments to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador

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Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2009 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

I have the honour to attach herewith a hard copy and a CD-ROM of the Doha Declaration (document M141/(09/03)/06-D(0177)) issued by the second Summit of Arab and South American Countries in Doha on 31 March 2009 following the Arab Summit.

As you are aware, that document contains a number of important resolutions covering the Arab-South American position on the most outstanding issues in the Arab world and in South America, in particular concerning Palestinian matters and the Arab-Israeli conflict, developments in the situation in the Sudan, Iraq, Somalia and Lebanon and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, together with a number of other important resolutions in the political, economic and social fields and in the fields of sustainable development, science and technology.

In that context, the Summit emphasized the importance of continued efforts to forge close relationships between the two regions with a view to their participation in a fairer and more equitable structure of international relations, and the creation of a new framework of international cooperation based on equivalence and equality. The Summit also emphasized that the attainment of peace, security and stability in the world calls for cooperation based on adherence to multilateral instruments, respect for international law, the observance of human rights and international humanitarian law, a comprehensive commitment to respect for the principles of State sovereignty and territorial integrity, the peaceful resolution of all international conflicts, in particular regional and bilateral problems and conflicts, in accordance with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the full and non-selective implementation of all United Nations resolutions.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm to you my desire for continued consultation and coordination with you on the various issues of common concern and I should be grateful if you would have the Declaration issued as a document of the United Nations.

I also wish to convey to you my great respect for your wholehearted efforts on behalf of peace, security and development throughout the world.

(*Signed*) Amre **Moussa**
Secretary-General

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic and English]

Doha Declaration

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Arab and South American Countries, in our Second Summit held in Doha (31/3/2009), upon the generous invitation of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and in accordance with what was stipulated in our First Summit, held in Brasilia (10-11/5/2005), upon the invitation of His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, who co-presided the First Summit together with His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, as the Chairman of the Arab Summit, with keenness to work on promoting Arab-South American relations and to benefit from its available chances, and coordinating bi-regional efforts to build a strong community in which mutual benefits can be exchanged and common interests protected, in the framework of constructive and concrete relations,

AGREE TO:

I – Preamble:

1. Note with satisfaction the evolution of bi-regional relations and the intensified dialogue achieved since the First ASPA Summit, which provided a strong framework for cooperation in key areas, and welcome, in particular, the Joint Meetings of Arab and South American Ministers Responsible for Culture, Economic Affairs, Environmental Affairs, Social Affairs, and Water Resources and Combating Desertification, which outlined action plans that constitute the basis for bi-regional cooperation.

2. Express our conviction about the importance of South-South cooperation as an effective mechanism to promote capacity building and the exchange of experiences in relevant areas, such as development, innovation, and the fight against poverty. Also, express our conviction about the importance of promoting trilateral cooperation that allows donors to enhance South-South cooperation programs and initiatives.

3. Reaffirm the necessity to build dense and dynamic relations between the both regions that contribute to structure more just and fair international relations and to establish a new framework for international cooperation, based on parity and equality, allowing the parties to benefit from the agreed initiatives, as well as providing the base for creating a common space of partnership between the both regions.

4. Affirm that, to promote peace, security and stability in the world, the cooperation between both regions should be guided by a commitment to multilateral instruments and respect for international law, by the observance of human rights and international humanitarian law; and reaffirm full compliance with and respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the peaceful settlement of all international conflicts, particularly regional

and bilateral conflicts and issues in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations and our commitment to the full implementation of all UN resolutions without selection.

II - Political Coordination:

5. Reaffirm the need to reach a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of the principle of land for peace and relevant resolutions of the Security Council and of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in particular Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) of the Security Council, as well as the Madrid Framework and the "Arab Peace Initiative" adopted at the Beirut Summit (2002) and reaffirmed at the Riyadh Summit (2007) and the Damascus Summit (2008), that ensure the realization of security for all countries in the region. Also highlight the necessity of the full implementation of the "Road Map". Reaffirm the need for the materialization of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, and for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1515 (2003), and the establishment of the independent Palestinian State, based on the 1967 lines, living side by side with the State of Israel, and the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories to the lines of 4/6/1967, including the occupied Syrian Golan and what remained from the Lebanese territories and the dismantling of the settlements including those in East Jerusalem. Duly take into account the advisory opinion rendered on 9/7/2004 by the International Court of Justice concerning the "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", and call upon all parties concerned to comply with the said advisory opinion.

Express our respect for the Palestinian legitimacy under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas and appreciate his efforts with all Arab and Palestinian parties to achieve national reconciliation and ensure that the Palestinian dialogue succeeds. Also express our respect for the legitimate institutions of the Palestinian National Authority established by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), including the elected Palestinian legislative council.

Appreciate Egyptian efforts to reach a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and to seek Palestinian reconciliation, as well as welcome the results of the International Conference for Donors in Sharm El-Sheikh, held by both Egypt and Norway on 2/3/2009, in order to offer needed funds to rebuild the Gaza Strip and the resumption of international assistance to the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian people.

Deplore the Israeli military action in the Gaza Strip, which led to thousands of civilian Palestinian casualties and the destruction of the infrastructure as well as the private and public institutions, and call for the immediate reopening of all the crossing points between Gaza and Israel, and for lifting the siege, so that essential goods and services, including fuel, can be supplied on a continuous basis, in order to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories. Reaffirm our full support for the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Palestinian occupied territories.

6. Reaffirm the need for the respect of the unity, freedom, sovereignty and independence of Iraq and the right of non-interference in its internal affairs; respect the will of the Iraqi people to freely decide their future, and strongly condemn all acts of terrorism and violence affecting, particularly, the Iraqi people. Also reaffirm the need to achieve national reconciliation in Iraq, and support the efforts of the Iraqi government in this regard to achieve security and stability; also support the efforts of the United Nations and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the various national Iraqi political actors committed to this process. Also express our support to the efforts made by the League of Arab States for that purpose, and call upon the international community to implement their commitments made in relation to Iraq's debts and to offer the assistance needed to undergo the process of reconstructing its institutions and infrastructure, especially upon the progress Iraq is witnessing, both at the political and security levels, in particular since the application of the security program and the advancement of the democratic process.

7. Express deep concern with regard to unilateral sanctions imposed on Syria by the Government of the United States of America and consider that the so-called "Syria Accountability Act" violates principles of international law and constitutes a violation of the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter, thereby setting a serious precedent with regard to dealing with independent states. Agree that engagement, not isolation, is a more effective way to promote dialogue and understanding among countries, and that the unilateral measures inspired by the "Syria Accountability Act" represent an unjustified burden on the Syrian economy and people.

8. Call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran for a positive response to the United Arab Emirates initiative to reach a peaceful settlement in the issue involving the three UAE islands (Tunb Al-Kubra, Tunb Alsughra and Abou Moussa) through dialogue and direct negotiations, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law. [1]

9. Welcome the initiative led by the League of Arab States and the African Union to resolve the Darfur crisis, and express support for the Darfur Committee headed by His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, His Excellency Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and the President of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Jean Ping. In this respect, express appreciation for the regional and international support rendered to the initiative, calling upon all the Sudanese factions to respond positively to the initiative to ensure its success; and welcome the Good Will and Confidence Building agreement signed by the Sudanese Government and the Movement of Justice and Equality on 17/2/2009, under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, to achieve a practical beginning for ending the conflict in Darfur. Also call for an urgent solution to the Darfur crisis, stressing the priority of peace building. Recognize the important role of the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in this respect. Highlight, as well, the importance of supporting the respect for human rights in Darfur, and

[1] Reservations made by Venezuela and Ecuador.

call upon the parties to cooperate with the international community in order to ensure the respect for international humanitarian law.

10. Welcome the Doha Agreement which was concluded under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and through the efforts of the Arab committee established by the Council of the League of Arab States, and express our support to His Excellency Michel Suleiman, President of the Lebanese Republic, in his efforts to consolidate stability in Lebanon through dialogue and reconciliation. Recognize the important role of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL); call for the complete implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1701; condemn Israeli violations to the said resolution; and reiterate our full support for Lebanon's sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity, as expressed in the League of Arab States' and the United Nations' resolutions.

11. Reaffirm the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and stability of Somalia; support the Somali National Reconciliation process held in Djibouti under the auspices of the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the African Union. Welcome the election of Sheikh Sharif Ahmed as the President of the Republic of Somalia and his taking of the constitutional oath in front of the Somali Parliament. Call for the international community to support the elected Somali President in his efforts to achieve national reconciliation. Express support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

12. Maintain that regional security and stability in the Middle East require that the whole region be free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Within this context, call upon all States concerned, with the support of the international community, to take practical and urgent measures for the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East. Reaffirm the importance of the accession of all countries of the region, without exception, to the NPT and the placement of all their nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East. Also express our support to the Arab Initiative calling for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East.

13. Stress the importance of regional and international cooperation to strengthen the fight against drugs trafficking and its consequences, human trafficking, illicit trade of small and light weapons, transnational organized crime, and the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

14. Condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reject any linkage between terrorism and a specific people or religion, ethnicity or culture. Emphasize the importance of combating terrorism through active and efficient international cooperation, within the United Nations and the concerned regional organizations, based on respect for the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in strict compliance with international law and human rights principles. Also reaffirm the importance of enhanced cooperation and coordination in the exchange of information and expertise and in the development of

competent organs specialized in combating terrorism. Call for holding an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to study this phenomenon and to define the crime of terrorism. Take note of the recommendations adopted by the Counter-Terrorism International Conference hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, on 5-8/2/2005, which represents a comprehensive approach to counter the phenomenon of terrorism. Support the proposal made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Abdullah Ibn Abdelaziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the establishment of an International Counter-Terrorism Center.

15. Reaffirm our refusal of foreign occupation and recognize the right of states and peoples to resist it, in accordance with the principles of international law.

16. Call upon the nuclear weapons states to fulfil in good faith their obligations concerning nuclear disarmament, as laid out in Article VI of the NPT, and reaffirm that non-proliferation and disarmament are two interdependent pillars of the NPT, on whose application the international community depends to attain lasting peace, security and stability. Note, in this regard, the importance of cooperation between Arabs and South Americans in international fora on issues related to disarmament.

17. Express satisfaction for the recent developments in the institutionalization of UNASUR, which we recognize as an important actor within the context of ASPA, after the approval of the Constitutive Treaty of UNASUR by the Heads of State as an expression of the aspiration of unity by the peoples of South America.

18. Reiterate the fundamental importance granted by our governments to the protection and promotion of human rights, their universality, indivisibility and interdependence, which are cornerstones of democracy and necessary elements for constructing more just societies.

19. Welcome the celebration of the Bicentenary of Independence of South American countries that started in 2008 and will continue for 15 years.

20. Call on the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute referred to as "Question of the Malvinas/Falklands Islands", in accordance with the many relevant UN Resolutions. We reiterate that the pretence to consider the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands as countries and territories to which the Fourth Part of the Treaty Establishing the European Community — the name of which will be changed to Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union — and the European Union Decisions on Overseas Association may be applied is not in accordance with the fact that a sovereignty dispute over such islands exists.

21. Recall that to fulfil its role, the United Nations requires a broad and integral reform, especially concerning the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, to render each of these organs more efficient, democratic, transparent and representative, according to their respective nature and functions and the purpose for which they were created.

22. Reaffirm our commitment to the multilateral system as a valid tool to contribute to the resolution of the problem of hunger and poverty. In that sense, call on developed countries to fulfil their resource mobilization commitments assumed at the High Level Conference on Food Security, held at FAO, in June of 2008. Also, emphasize our commitment to reinforce the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as the multilateral forum in which all States can find alternatives to resolve the world food insecurity.

23. Welcome the end of the misunderstanding between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Islamic Republic of Iran on claims affecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Bahrain, and note with satisfaction the assurances offered by the Iranian Government regarding its respect for the independence and sovereignty, confirming Iran's non-interference in Bahrain's internal affairs. The ASPA Member States affirmed their stand alongside the Kingdom of Bahrain on its independence and sovereignty.

III – Cultural Cooperation:

24. Note with satisfaction the steps taken since the Brasília Declaration regarding cultural cooperation. In this respect, underline the importance of the First Meeting of South American and Arab Ministers of Culture, held in Algiers, in 2006, which outlined the common policies and priorities for cultural cooperation. And call upon all the ASPA Member States to participate in the Second Meeting of Ministers of Culture, which will take place in Rio de Janeiro, on 20-21/5/2009.

25. Observe with special satisfaction the first outcomes of bi-regional cultural cooperation, among which can be highlighted:

    a) The development in the establishment the ASPA Library in Algeria. Also express our deep satisfaction for the great care given by Algeria for this project, to which it assigned 3 hectares of land for its building. Also support, in this respect, the right suggestion of the experts meeting held in Doha in the period of 20-23/10/2008, especially concerning the contributions of the ASPA Member States to push forward this important cultural achievement; as well as the creation of the website www.bibliaspa.com.br, by the BibliASPA Brazil, that already offers literary and audiovisual content about both regions' cultures. Underline that the approval of the Statute of the Arab-South American Library resulted from a continuous construction of agreement among all parties, and believe that the establishment of this institution will help promote the cultures of both regions in the Member States, strengthening cooperation and cultural interchange, as well as providing for the organization of cultural and scientific activities, the protection of both regions' heritages, the acquisition, donation and exchange of intellectual production, the creation of bibliographic basis, of laboratories and documentary funds, which constitute a real bridge among the peoples; also believe that, in order to reach these important objectives, it would be helpful to identify its potential users and reinforce its multilingual character.

b) The steps taken since the Brasilia Declaration regarding the South American Research Institute that the Kingdom of Morocco decided to host and establish in Tangier. Note with satisfaction the care given by Morocco in assigning 2 hectares for its building and in designing a project that contemplates different facilities and services, presented and approved at the Fifth ASPA High Officials Meeting, which was held in Doha (20-23/10/2008). Stress the vital role expected of the Institute in enhancing cultural interaction between the two regions by developing joint research and academic production in various fields; and encourage countries to offer their voluntary contributions in a way that would allow the achievement of the goals set for the Institute.

c) The publishing, by BibliASPA Brazil, with the support of the National Libraries of Algeria, Brazil and Venezuela, of the book The foreigner's delight in everything that is astounding and marvellous: an analytical study on the journey of Imam Al-Baghdadi, by Professor Paulo Daniel Farah, written in Arabic and other languages and published with its translations into Portuguese and Spanish; other titles will be added to the list of relevant bi-regional works to be translated and published.

d) The holding of a travelling photographic exposition on the Arab influence in South America ("Amrik"), as well as exhibitions of Arab films in South American countries and of South American movies in Arab countries;

e) The organization, by BibliASPA Brazil, together with the Ibero-American Secretariat and the Casa Arabe, of the seminar "The Arab influence on Ibero-American Culture", held in Rio de Janeiro, in November, 2008.

26. Emphasize the importance of cultural interaction amongst the peoples to enrich human civilization. Express willingness to continue debating cultural policies and actions to promote mutual knowledge of the Arab and South American cultures. Furthermore, recognize that ASPA provides a unique opportunity to build bridges between the peoples of both regions and create a common space for dialogue, exchange and interaction.

27. Express appreciation, in particular, for the positive role of South American nationals of Arab descent and of Arab nationals of South American origin in fostering relations between the two regions.

28. Reaffirm the importance of the debate on cultural diversity for the purpose of encouraging intercultural dialogue, and deem it positive to share cultural experiences and policies aimed at renewing and fostering ideas, theories and concepts on the matter.

29. Consider that the analysis of the cultural manifestations of each region, necessary to understand them and implement politics for their promotion and protection, both in their material and immaterial aspects, must not be separated from social phenomena.

30. Encourage active participation in the Second Meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Arab-South American Countries, to be held in Rio de Janeiro (20-21/5/2009), further strengthening cultural links to ensure the follow-up of all the ongoing projects.

31. Take note that Bolivia will hold a seminar on the coca leaf, its historical and traditional uses, which will take place in the city of Cochabamba, in 2009.

32. Reiterate the importance of exchanging information in the field of the economy of culture, with a view to the economic and social incidences of cultural activities in the sustainable development of all involved countries; and reaffirm the interest in strengthening the cooperation in the fields of material and immaterial common inheritance, focusing on the preservation of cultural and natural patrimonies and in the safeguard of the immaterial inheritance.

33. Take note that the candidature of Mr. Farouk Hosni, Egyptian Minister of Culture, to the post of the Director General of the UNESCO, has received the support of the League of Arab States and the African Union.

34. Welcome Peru's contribution to mutual cultural cooperation by publishing the following books: Los Origenes del Amazonas, in Spanish, and Al Andalous Au Perou, in French.

IV - Dialogue of Civilizations:

35. Express the need to respect the diversity of cultures, religions and civilizations, which is part of the common human heritage; and stress that freedom of worship is one of the basic rights that should be respected and should not be subject to discrimination of any kind.

36. Express concern over the rise in instances of deliberate negative stereotyping of religions, their holly figures and followers, and call upon all members of the international community to fulfil their respective obligations under international human rights law, in particular concerning incitements to religious hatred, with a view to protect the right of everyone to freedom of thought, opinion, conscience, and religion without discrimination of any kind; and emphasize that respect for all religions is an essential pillar in creating an environment conducive to the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

37. Reaffirm our obligation to support the creation of new international spaces for intercultural dialogue, in accordance with the Brasília Declaration, from which we undertake to foster mutual trust and understanding for a peaceful coexistence among the nations, recognizing the importance of preserving national identity in a globalized world. Consider it to be a very positive option to work for comprehension among the peoples of both regions and for the recognition of cultural diversity. In this regard, welcome the contribution of the Argentine Republic as organizer of the regional seminar "Women and the Alliance of Civilizations, Opportunities and Challenges", which took place in Buenos Aires, in April 2008, in the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations.

38. Affirm the importance of supporting all the initiatives that aim to establish dialogue between civilizations, cultures, religions and peoples in general, and support cooperation with the United Nation's "Alliance of Civilizations" initiative, to create bridges of constructive contact, reciprocal knowledge and deeper understanding throughout the world. In this context, the ASPA Member States extend their best wishes to the II World Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, to be held in the period of 6-7/4/2009, in Istanbul, and welcome the Brazilian Government's offer to convene the III Forum, in the first half of 2010, in Brazil.

39. Express appreciation for the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Abdullah Ibn Abdelaziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to promote dialogue between world religions, faiths and cultures. In this regard, recall important initiatives, including the Mecca Appeal for Interfaith Dialogue (06/06/2008), the Madrid Declaration for Interfaith Dialogue (16-18/7/2008), and the Dialogue between the Believers of Religions, Faiths and Cultures, that took place during the high level meeting of UN General Assembly (12-13/11/2008)

40. Hold a seminar on "Dialogue between the Arab and South American countries".

41. Assess and analyze the outcome of the First UN Forum on the Alliance of Cultures and other relevant initiatives, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), so as to formulate the appropriate program and policies.

V - Economic Cooperation:

42. Note with satisfaction the holding of two joint Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Economic Affairs in Arab and South American Countries, in Quito (25-26/4/2006) and Rabat (23-24/5/2007), from which resulted the "Rabat Plan of Action", a bi-regional roadmap for greater integration and cooperation. Express satisfaction for what has been implemented of the Rabat Plan and call for its completion, specifically in the areas of energy, mining, tourism, transportation, finance and capital markets.

43. Reaffirm that peace, security and stability in our regions are to be considered the main pivot to enhance economic prosperity and achieve sustainable development.

44. Welcome the outcome of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit which was held in Kuwait in 19-20/1/2009, which promotes cooperation between both regions, and welcome the initiative for development of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, totalling USD 2 billion, which aims to provide financial resources to fund small and medium size projects of the private sector in the Arab world; appreciate the pledge of the State of Kuwait to contribute USD 500 million.

45. Express our mutual concern at the international financial crisis and its ramifications on the economies of ASPA Member States, with a view to safeguarding our interests within the efforts deployed by the international community. In this regard, it is important to remark the

negative consequences of this crisis on vulnerable, small and less developed economies, in particular in landlocked countries. Emphasize the need to establish an international financial system which prevents financial speculation and takes into account adequate regulations. In this context, the construction of this new international finance architecture must be congruent with socioeconomic development. Financial cooperation instruments, in addition to the international efforts, should be implemented. Cooperation mechanisms among the countries of the South must be reinforced to prevent crisis and poverty, in terms of social inclusion and poverty reduction.

46. Emphasize the importance of a new international financial architecture and the need for the international financial institutions and the developed countries to play a role towards the consequences of the international financial crisis to support the developing countries, especially the poor ones, in order to face the effect of this crisis on their economies, respecting their political sovereignty and economic independence.

47. Reaffirm, in this regard, the importance of convening as early as possible an international conference in the framework of the UN to carry out the debate on the international financial crisis and its solutions, as agreed by the Doha Summit on Financing for Development and the United Nations General Assembly.

48. Recognize the risks that could arise if the Doha Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations is not finalized, which threatens the expansion of exports of the developing and transitional countries, in addition to delaying global economic growth. Moreover, emphasize the urge to complete the Doha Round beforehand in a successful manner, in order to serve the development perspectives that encompass the opening of markets in a just, balanced and equal form, to make the developmental aspect a main target, giving special importance to sectors which have a competitive advantage either for agricultural or non-agricultural products, in light of the international financial crisis.

49. Consider opportune to point out that a more fluid commercial activity between both regions, concerning agricultural and industrial goods, and that a major technical cooperation in different areas will allow the implementation of new methods in order to add value to the products traded between both regions.

50. Welcome the significant increase of global trade between both regions since the holding of the First ASPA Summit, stressing that there are still unexplored possibilities which would allow for increased growth and diversification of bi-regional trade.

51. Welcome the initiatives aiming at the conclusion of trade agreements between South American and Arab countries. In this regard, note with satisfaction the launching of trade negotiations between the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and Egypt, Jordan and Morocco, in 2008. Celebrate, as well, the resumption of negotiations between MERCOSUR and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with the aim to create a free trade zone. These initiatives contribute to significantly enhance South American-Arab relations.

52. Welcome the positive outcome of the International Follow Up Conference on Financing for Development, hosted by the State of Qatar during the period from 29/11 to 2/12/2008, which is related to the follow up of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

53. Support the development of trade and partnership between both regions through strengthening the trade preferences system between the developing countries.

54. Express common support to ensure that all ASPA Member States applying for accession to the WTO may accede in a satisfactory and expedient manner, according to the rules and procedures of that Organization; also support the requests of regional organizations to obtain, according to the rules and procedures of the WTO, observer status in relevant WTO bodies.

55. Express commitment to intensifying the coordination of our positions in the economic and commercial fora in order to discuss common issues in accordance with the objectives of this Declaration. In this respect, reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the economic and social institutions of the United Nations in order to promote a broad and ambitious international economic, social and development agenda, and to implement the relevant resolutions adopted in the main conferences of the United Nations.

56. Emphasize the importance of a continuous and stable flow of financial resources for the promotion of economic and social development, particularly in the areas of infrastructure and the reduction of poverty and eradication of hunger. Stress in particular the need for the multilateral financial institutions to recognize that the public expenditures in the social areas for the formation of human capital and infrastructure should be treated as public investments.

57. Note with satisfaction, as well, the positive outcome of the Second Arab and South American Businessmen Forum - Partnerships and Opportunities, held in Doha in the period of 29-30/3/2009, which aimed at enhancing trade and investment between both regions.

58. Welcome and commend the "Energy for the Poor" initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Abdullah Ibn Abdelaziz Al-Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was launched during the OPEC Jeddah Energy Meeting, on 22/6/2008, and aimed at enabling the developing countries to face the increasing cost of energy.

59. Recognize the efforts and the initiatives in the field of energy developed in South America, aiming at alleviating the socioeconomic situation of developing countries, mainly initiatives such as PETROSUR and PETROCARIBE, promoted by Venezuela.

60. Congratulate Brazil on the successful realization of the International Conference on Bio-fuels: "Bio-fuels as a driving force of sustainable development", in the period of 17-21/11/2008, which promoted an open and informed discussion on issues related to bio-fuels, such as sustainability, energy security, climate change, innovation and international market.

61. Exchange information on procedures, policies and experiences for the optimal use of energy that may contribute not only to energy efficiency, but also to the sustainable production of

energy in general. Such initiatives should consider the need of development and dissemination of low cost technologies that may be effectively implemented in developing countries.

62. Foster the building of mechanisms for cooperation and information-sharing in the sector of oil, natural gas and other energy sources, including exchange of technical expertise, technology transfer, and human resources training.

63. Welcome the proposal of UAE to host the Headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency in Abu Dhabi.

64. Express with satisfaction for the practical steps taken by the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding between the League of Arab States and the South American countries to promote tourism movement and investment in this field, focusing on the role of the private sector.

65. Increase efforts towards a systematic dissemination of updated data on ASPA Member States, with regard to trade, investment and tourism opportunities, through the establishment of semi-permanent fairs, the conclusion of agreements on cooperation between agencies in charge of promoting exports and investment, the establishment or sponsorship of entrepreneurial missions and the organization of joint seminars. Express interest in exchanging experience and knowledge contributing to the development of the existing expertise in the institutions of the Arab and South American countries.

66. Consider that information and communication technologies may offer an opportunity to overcome the progress hurdles and that their application will yield high social impacts, regarding them as essential tools for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and decide to exert further efforts towards realizing coordination within the international fora.

67. Promote stronger cooperation on information and communication between both regions' institutions, aiming to strengthen their infrastructure as a means to reinforce South-South information flow and to decrease the imbalances and inequalities in such areas.

68. Reaffirm that the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is an inalienable right of the states parties to the NPT, and applying this right in a discriminatory or selective way, especially to the states parties, will affect the credibility of the treaty. Also reaffirm the importance of cooperation in this field and support economic and technical research, and decide to intensify exchange of experts between the research centers in the Arab and South American countries.

69. Reaffirm the commitment to building up an inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, as set out in the Declaration of Principles and in the Plan of Action of the Tunis phase 2005 of the World Summit on Information Society. Also affirm the importance of bi-regional cooperation in the fields of information and communication technology and the reduction of the digital gap.

70. Exchange information and documents, including information about updating laws and regulations regarding protection of intellectual property rights, basic information, and statistics on patents and infringement of intellectual property rights to enhance the League of Arab States and South American countries' roles as sources of information on intellectual property in Arab and South American countries. Stress the importance of exchanging information and collaboration in the field of copyrights and neighbouring rights, as well as provide the means and procedures for the due compliance with copyrights and neighbouring rights in accordance with each country's national laws and the related international conventions to which they are parties.

71. Promote cooperation among intellectual property offices and activities for the exchange of experiences in managing intellectual property rights. Reaffirm our commitment for the full implementation of the mandate contained in paragraph 19 of the Doha Development Agenda, concerning the examination of the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore.

72. Organize and hold joint meetings, educational seminars and training programs on different intellectual property issues.

73. Reaffirm the importance of balanced intellectual property systems and welcome the adoption, in 2007, by WIPO, of 45 Recommendations to enhance the development dimension in the Organization and the adoption by WHO of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property in 2008, and their commitment to implement the intellectual property rights and public health goals laid out in the WTO's Doha Declaration.

74. Affirm the importance and necessity of transforming debts and interest on developing countries towards developed ones and towards international funding institutions into investments in the field of sustainable development.

75. Recognize the importance of the involvement of able countries and fund institutions in both regions in financing sustainable development projects, encouraging, in particular, micro-loan institutions, to fund micro community projects that generate income, in light of their contribution to protect the environment and to reduce the pressure on natural resources. Affirm the importance of involving civil society and the private sector of both regions in these efforts.

VI - Cooperation on Environmental Affairs and Sustainable Development:

76. Note with satisfaction the results of the joint Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Environmental Affairs, in Nairobi (6/2/2007), and of Ministers Responsible for Water Resources and Combating Desertification, in Riyadh (16-17/11/2008). Express satisfaction for the current impetus of bi-regional cooperation in these areas and call upon all ASPA Member States to take further measures to complete the implementation of the agendas set out in the "Arab-South American joint Communiqué on Environment" and the "Riyadh Communiqué on Water Resources and Combating Desertification".

77. Highlight the common goal that both regions have to preserve the environment and achieve sustainable development, agree to promote cooperation in upgrading the knowledge, technologies and traditional practices in combating desertification and drought, as well as, to implement projects related to the use and improvement of the quality of soil and water, desalination, conservation of ecosystems, protected areas and the promotion of ecotourism, management of water resources for irrigation and/or improvement of irrigation.

78. Promote the exchange of experience in supplying drinking water to rural communities, improving the quality of drinking water in marginal urban areas, sewage treatment and implementing technology in the field of groundwater extraction.

79. Stress the need for developed countries to fulfil their commitments regarding the financing of development, the transfer of technology and the expansion of market access for exports from developing countries, especially those contained in Chapter 34 of Agenda 21, the Convention of Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, and other international instruments, in such manner that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development and the objectives agreed by the international community.

80. Recognize that disaster and risk reduction strategies and measures are important elements for climate change adaptation and agree on promoting cooperation, exchange of experiences and adaptation knowledge.

81. Promote cooperation and links between national centres of cleaner production in the ASPA Member States with the aim of achieving an optimal use of resources and the reduction of pollution.

82. Enhance cooperation and coordination to stop illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals and wastes and recognize the importance of ratifying the Ban Amendment of the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal to expedite its entering into force.

83. Recognize the importance of exchanging best practices and strengthening research, scientific and technological cooperation between the two regions so as to develop agricultural systems and technologies designed to increase production and productivity with the aim of realizing food security for the both regions. Encourage investments in agriculture in those countries of both regions rich in water resources. Call upon developed countries to expand access for developing countries' exports to world markets as a contribution in the development efforts and to the realization of the Millennium Goals approved by the international community.

84. Recognize also the imperative need to coordinate policies that guarantee food security and food sovereignty for all populations as well as timely and permanent access to food, and to enhance cooperation in rural development, so as to improve productivity in food production.

85. Recognize further the importance of enhancing cooperation and developing technologies to face the challenges and opportunities of renewable sources of energy in a manner that would

take into account food security and sustainable development in the countries of the both regions.

86. Reaffirm their commitment to participate in the global effort to address climate change, according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, under the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In this sense, recall that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change and that the fight to eradicate poverty is an absolute priority for developing countries.

87. Call upon the developed countries to respond to the challenges posed by climate change and to substantially support the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol.

88. Call upon the developed countries to fulfil their commitments in the global effort to address climate change, in accordance with their historical responsibilities, and to adopt new and ambitious targets to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. These commitments should also include the provision of new and additional financial and technological support for actions in developing countries in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.

89. Urge the international community to support the developing countries, through international financial mechanisms, in their efforts to conserve and manage their forests on a sustainable basis.

90. Recall that dealing with the potential impacts of climate change requires international action and solidarity in the context of sustainable development, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Recognize specific needs and concerns of developing countries arising from the adverse effects of climate change and the impact of the implementation of response measures, while taking into consideration Article 4.8 of the UNFCCC.

VII - Scientific, Technological and Educational Cooperation:

91. Stress the importance of research, scientific and technological cooperation, specially in order to strengthen bi-regional cooperation in the fields of higher education , technological and scientific research in general, with emphasis on the applied research aimed at the solution of urgent development problems (through student exchange programs, training, research and study grants) and, in particular, exchange of experiences in the fields of the assessment and development of water resources, the rationalization of its use, and the improvement and increase of water use efficiency, particularly in irrigation.

92. Affirm the importance of supporting cooperation between research and scientific centres in the two regions so as to develop low cost technologies for water desalination in a way that enables the expansion in its use for developmental aims including agriculture.

93. Strengthen and develop cooperation through benefiting from modern technologies such as remote sensing and geographic information systems in areas related to climate change, such as the preparation and develop...ent of models for climate studies at the level of agricultural systems, the establishment and development of early warning systems for monitoring desertification, droughts, forecasting at the level of environmental systems, countries and sites and changes in land use.

94. Affirm the importance of strengthening cooperation and exchange of experiences in the field of combating desertification, rehabilitation of degraded areas and the implementation of national action plans for combating desertification.

95. Stress that the South-South Cooperation in science and technology constitutes a cooperation policy that should be implemented by the ASPA Member States to face the challenge of deepening the development and the economic and social progress of our people.

96. Underline the need that countries with middle incomes keep receiving resources from developed countries and also ponder their participation in triangular cooperation.

97. Welcome the improvement of scientific and technologic cooperation in the areas of priority interest of both regions and urge the ASPA Member States to keep presenting proposals in order to perform joint actions.

98. Exchange educational information between countries of both regions via Internet, by correspondence or through the ASPA website on science and technology (www.aspa-science.org), so as to increase knowledge of these countries' experiences regarding modern concepts of sponsorship of teachers and training programs in career development, productivity upgrading, performance evaluation of teachers, modern methods and strategies of teaching and learning and the use of technology in both.

99. Exchange also expertise in educational technology through field visits of specialists from both regions to centres and institutions of design and production of education techniques; also dispatch specialists in educational technology to South American countries to participate in training courses and visit related exhibitions that show scientific experiments in this field, so as to enhance knowledge about South American experiences in using education and communication technology. Establish a joint research Committee to create the appropriate framework for the use of educational technology.

100. Exchange expertise in the field of school libraries and centres for sources of learning and establish joint institutes for pedagogical research and techniques, with a view to developing the educational process, particularly teaching techniques; establish joint committees for pedagogical cooperation through field visits, presentation of pedagogical experiences in concerned countries; establish a scientific and pedagogical network concerned with education techniques; organize pedagogical workshops to foster modern concepts in education techniques and to establish a centre for distant learning among countries of both regions.

101. Organize joint seminars, courses and pedagogical conferences to exchange experience in this field in general and in the field of pedagogical supervision in particular, and exchange publications, books, periodicals, thesis and research papers in the fields of pedagogical assessment and supervision.

102. Cooperate in conducting joint field studies to enrich the pedagogical and educational fields with related innovations especially with regard to the use of Information and Communications Technology in education and research institutions and to the discussion of a number of related issues such as: overall quality, teaching and learning strategies, relation between education and ICT. In this regard, the employment of free and open-source software and collaborative tools could, in accordance with each country's policies, be stimulated.

103. Cooperate also in extra-curricular activities, services and guidance, to obtain information about physical education and sports programs in South American schools and innovations therein; coordinate actions regarding boy and girl scout leader courses in both regions and exchange experience and delegations in these fields.

104. Implement joint projects and programs to sponsor talented and creative youth, exchange literature, information and advanced training programs in these fields.

105. Promote the enhancement of the mobility of students from one region to the other at the undergraduate and graduate levels as a means to cooperate to the other region's economic development through training of human resources at university level.

106. Carry out actions geared to the creation and execution of a Scientific and Technological Bi-regional Cooperation Program for Talent Exchange and Training, with the aim of bringing both regions' scientific communities closer together through the development of research team projects to foment technology transfer.

107. Work on the exchange of technical experiences from both regions in providing special programs for students with learning difficulties and those having audio, visual or mental disabilities.

108. Welcome the suggestion of holding a Joint Meeting for Ministers of Education in Arab and South American Countries in order to promote the dissemination of information related to educational policies applied by the countries from both regions.

VIII – Social Cooperation:

109. Note with satisfaction the positive steps taken in the First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs (Cairo, 2-3/5/2007) in the development of a collaborative agenda to work on eradicating extreme poverty and fighting hunger; the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals; the promotion of human development and social development; financing development; and cooperation between both regions in the social and developmental domains.

110. Note with special satisfaction, in this regard, Brazil's intention to host the Second Meeting of Ministers of Social Affairs, which will take place in Brasilia, in the second half of 2009.

111. Recognize the importance of having the appropriate environment to implement the development programs and promote social policies, as well as the necessity of cultural integration, in accordance with the applicable agreements of both regions and the international instruments, especially the UN Millennium Summit Declaration, Agenda 21, Resolutions of the World Summit on Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the UN Declaration on the Right to Development and all relevant international instruments. Consider the fact that globalization has not been able in itself to generate the necessary social changes to reduce poverty and eradicate hunger in our societies; and that the Arab and South American countries are able to abide by their commitments and overcome the challenges to achieve comprehensive objectives and goals of social development and benefit from each other's experiences.

112. Activate national strategies in the two regions to alleviate poverty through enriching the applicable matrix of poverty indicators by including indicators pertaining to human poverty and deprivation, social exclusion, along with other financial indicators; develop necessary policies that guarantee the achievement of pro-poor economic growth by improving the investment climate in the two regions and mainstream programs and policies of clear priorities for poverty reduction strategies, establishing schemes for national aids aiming at providing direct financial support to the poor, extreme poor and people with disability, while creating micro credit and financing for income generation to help poor households create income-generating enterprises and paying special attention to monitoring the implementation of such programs and policies.

113. Promote the participation of all social components in the quest to attain social justice in accordance with national legislations, in order to contribute to the comprehensive development and reduction of poverty.

114. Reaffirm the adherence of the two regions to MDGs and mainstream the activities related to these goals, requirements and needs into the annual plans and programs of the sectoral institutions as an integral part of comprehensive economic and social developmental policy. Agree on the need to mainstream MDGs implementation and their linkage to the goals of international human development-oriented conferences, in a consistent manner that would enhance the commitment of the two regions and promote follow-up mechanisms, as well as monitor their implementation at the national and regional levels.

115. Develop know-how in different domains so as to enable the two regions to achieve the MDGs, as well as other international commitments in the social area. These domains can include income sources, purchasing power parity, labour market and its fragility, regional particularities and social protection. Poverty reduction-driven policies and social justice achievement shall depend on firmer catalysts and new criteria.

116. Join efforts for the exchange of experiences in subjects such as social security, inspection, working conditions and environment and employing public services in the socio-labour area, all based on the principles of solidarity, reciprocity and complementarity among the populations.

117. Support and value the initiative of His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, to make year 2010 as the International Year for Youth, and hold an "International Youth Conference" under the auspices of the United Nations.

118. Encourage the implementation and assessment of proposed programs for confronting the global problem of drugs and drug-related crimes; also emphasize the essential role of international cooperation in this respect and study relevant proposals for including the issue in school curricula.

IX – Follow up Mechanisms:

119. ASPA STRUCTURE:

Establish an organizational structure for ASPA in order to make it more dynamic as follows:

a) (Highest level) The Summit, formed by Heads of State and Governments, to meet every three years;

b) (Second level) The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, to meet every two years;

c) (Third level) The Council of High Officials from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, formed by the National Coordinators (Focal Points), to meet every six months;

d) (Fourth level – 1) The Sectorial Committees, formed by experts in each area (Nodal Points), to meet at least twice a year;

e) (Fourth level – 2) The Executive Coordination Group, formed by the Chair of the Arab Summit, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, representing the Arab Countries, the Presidency of the UNASUR, and Brazil (which will temporarily join this group until the General Secretariat of UNASUR becomes fully structured), representing the South American countries. This Group should meet twice a year.

120. Welcome by acclamation the initiative made by the Republic of Peru to host the Third ASPA Summit in Lima in the first half of 2011.

121. Upcoming Meetings:

- The Third South American and Arab Countries Summit will take place in Lima, 2011.
- The next meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of South American and Arab Countries will be held in an Arab country, to be duly defined, in 2011.
- The Ministerial Sectorial Meetings will be scheduled in coordination between both regions.
- The Sixth High Officials Meeting will be held in a South American country, to be duly defined, in the second half of 2009.